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10/516,980	07/14/2005	Bernd Luhmann	101769-283 tesa 1661-WCG	6874
27386 7590 12/31/2007 NORRIS, MCLAUGHLIN & MARCUS, P.A. 875 THIRD AVE 18TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10022				
EXAMINER DESAL, ANISH P				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Continuation of Box 11:

1. Applicant's submission overcomes all of the previously made 35 USC Section 112-second paragraph rejections.
2. The art rejections of Dunshee (US 2002/0165477) taken individually or in view of Stempel (US 5,492,943) are maintained for the following reasons.

Applicant argues that Dunshee reference, specifically paragraphs 0118-0120 does not teach or suggest addition of the superabsorbents into the adhesive composition; instead the superabsorbents proposed by Dunshee only for the backing. The Examiner agrees with Applicant. However, the secondary reference of Stempel discloses water-absorbers (superabsorbents) such as sodium carboxymethylcellulose that is added to the pressure-sensitive adhesive of Stempel (column 4 lines 34-48). Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add superabsorbent in the adhesive, motivated by the desire to control the moisture content and consequently, the bonding properties of the adhesive.

As to Applicant argument that Stempel's adhesive must have water-absorber in the amount of from 35 to 65% (column 4 lines 43-44). It is the Examiner's position that in absence of any unexpected results, choosing a suitable amount of superabsorbent would involve routine optimization, depending on the bonding properties of the adhesive that are desired. Accordingly, the art rejections are maintained.

/Ula C Ruddock/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794